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**EXHIBIT A TO DEFENDANT SEMYON NEYS'
SENTENCING MEMORANDUM**

March 12, 2007

The Honorable Vaughn R. Walker
United States District Chief Judge
US District Court, Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys
Case No: CR05-0491

Dear Judge Walker:

My name is Mari Neys, and I am Semyon's mother. I wish I had the opportunity to speak with you in person about this unfortunate matter, however, since that is not an option; I have decided to put my feelings into a letter. I am sure you can understand how difficult a situation like Semyon's (Sam's) is for a mother. Sam is my only son, the most important person in my life, and to witness his arrest and incarceration has been my life's greatest and most painful test. However, as Sam's mother, I will support him his entire life and stand by him through each challenge he faces, including this – the biggest challenge of his life.

This letter is my only chance to give you a glimpse of Sam, and an understanding of the person he is. Growing up, Sam was a joy to be around. He was full of cheer, and always made everyone around him laugh. His exemplary achievement in school and extra curricular activities made him an inspiration to his friends and peers. My husband and I did all we could in raising him to make sure he was well mannered, well disciplined, and well educated. Sam was a model citizen, participated in community service projects, and would never think to be involved in any illegal activities. Above all, his loyalty and love for our family, and his friends is and always was, unfaltering. When I suffered a back injury, and was on disability, Sam stepped up to take care of me. Without his support and dedication, I would have been unable to have such a speedy recovery. He did the same when he took the initiative and responsibility upon himself to care for his grandparents when they fell ill, and has helped family friends through injuries and hard times. Whenever someone needed him, or he felt that there was a way that he could help someone, Sam was there. He is a loving son and grandson, and a devoted friend. He is intelligent, loyal, and he has a big heart.

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The Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker
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Semyon graduated from Lowell High School in 2001, and is a very bright young man. He was accepted to San Francisco State University, however, due to the financial situation in our family, and the burden that would have been caused by the tuition, he decided to work full time and continue his education at City College of San Francisco. As Sam was struggling with the daunting task of both working full time and taking a heavy course load at City College, my husband, Leo, and I got separated, and shortly after, divorced. This was a very difficult and overwhelming time for Sam – dealing with work, school, my divorce from his father, and our family's recent health problems, including my back injury, his grandmother's diabetes and Alzheimer's disease, and his grandfather's blood disease. Our small family had always been very closely knit, and it seemed as though it was beginning to unravel, making it hard for Sam to adjust to the recent and dramatic changes in his life.

It was not long after my separation from my ex-husband that I began to notice changes in Sam's behavior. He became very inattentive, difficult to talk to, and had a general change to his personality and disposition. He became disinterested in his usual activities. He began to drop classes at school, he could not keep up with work, and it was during this time that my son turned to drugs. This was not the same person his father and I raised. Leo and I did all we could to help him through this rough time, as he had helped us all so many times in the past. We realized he had drug problem and tried to get him professional help as soon as we could, but Sam was in denial about his addiction and would not accept help us or our friends and family.

Over time, Sam's condition grew increasingly worse. I tried desperately to place him into drug treatment programs in San Francisco, but he still had a difficult time admitting that he had a drug addiction. During this time, he was still attending school, and working part time. Shortly before Sam's incarceration, after months of struggling, he began to realize his problems, and began to look for a treatment program. This was very difficult for him, as he did not have the courage to fully admit his addiction problems, and submit himself to a treatment facility. He needed help, and could not fight his drug addiction on his own.

For the past year and a half since Sam's arrest, I have seen a great change in him. He has had to face and fight his drug addiction in a lonely and frightening environment, and being the strong man that he is, he has overcome this demon. I see that my son has become a very mature person. He now admits his mistakes. He is extremely remorseful for what he has done, and has realized how many people were affected by his actions. He is a changed person now and wants to start his life fresh, by going back to school and work. Difficult as it may have been for both him and our family, this was a very good lesson in Sam's life. He is again becoming the man he once was, before he got caught up in a situation he could not control.

Honorable Judge Walker, as Sam's mother, I have witnessed all of his highs and his lows. I know that this experience has changed my son, and that he will never go back

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The Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker

March 12, 2007

to the man that he had turned into during his drug addiction. I feel that he has learned from his mistakes and with the changes I have seen in him, I know that he will never be involved with drugs or any other illegal activities again. I ask that you consider the person that Sam once was before he fell victim to a drug addiction that he could not break on his own, give him the opportunity to continue serving his community as he once did and the chance to live a worthwhile life. I pray that because of this, he be treated with leniency and given the lowest sentence allowed under the law.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of my son.

Respectfully,

Mari Neys

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mari Neys".

Dear Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

My name is Leonid Neys, father of Seymon Neys (Sam). Sam has been a great part of my life and I can say with confidence that nobody knows him better than me. I would like to share with you a few aspects of who he is and who I know him as.

Sam grew up in a full healthy family until the age of 20 when my wife and I separated. He was 6 years old when we immigrated to this country. Everything was new to him including a language to learn and people to adapt to. His natural want to learn helped him as well as us. As a result of him being my only child, much of my time was devoted to him. We would often explore different sights like parks, beaches, museums, etc.

Two years after we had established our stay in the United States my parents (Sam's grandparents) joined us. Sam played a large roll in helping us all familiarize ourselves with the new country. He was the main translator for my parents when it came to doctors appointments, and even grocery shopping.

At age eleven, Sam started to play tennis, which he became fairly proficient at. This was great for our relationship for we would spend hours on the court perfecting his game, and strengthening my own. Later on, he played for his high school team all four years. He even took the time to help better his friends and cousins games.

When Sam was a young he always had to be solving some kind of puzzle. Weather it was learning how to take apart and put back together a bicycle, or building an advanced Lego set. Many of his teachers would comment on his proficiency in school topics when I would pick him up. He excelled in mathematics and critical thinking his whole life.

Sam had bar mitzvah at the age of 13. To prepare thoroughly he started learning and reciting torah readings with his grandfather at the age 11. Doing this was very crucial to his maturing as a child. He learned responsibility and understood how important religion and family was. He would always do things with his family. Not only did he take in the knowledge shared by his grandfather, but he later helped his cousins prepare for their own bar mitzvahs.

He was involved in after school programs in both the Richmond district community center and the Jewish community center of San Francisco. Sam was always involved with some kind of program until the age of sixteen when he decided it was time for his first job. I saw him grow up before my eyes. Like any teenager, he wanted more money for his own expenses. We would still play our tennis matches and religiously watch the Shark's game at home.

My wife and I had made a mutual decision to separate in 2003 when Sam was twenty years old. We had thought about doing it earlier but didn't for Sam. This was a tough time in my life because along with the divorce, my mother had become ill requiring much of my attention and support. Sam was twenty years old, going to school, spending time

with friends, and working full time. With so much going on our relationship slipped away little by little.

I lost most contact with him after he moved out. I was on a new page in my life and he was still the busy Sam that I had always known. I figured that it was best for him to do what he wanted and to live his own life which was the tough decision all parents need to make.

When I found out that my trust had been broken and saw for my own what Sam was up to I tried helping him get on the right track. But his mind was set on what he was doing and it was only a matter of time before he was jailed.

I first felt angry at him. He had betrayed me and did everything that I felt I taught him not to do. Sam is a different person today than he was twenty two months ago. Not only is he clean and thinking logically, but he has grown mentally and passed that adolescent stage he was in.

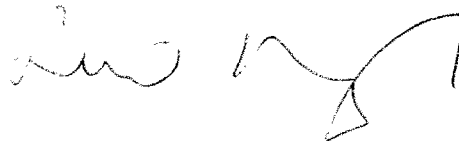
I bring him at least one text book a month. Varying from Russian language books, to historical educational textbooks. Along with what I bring him he shares with me all the books that he reads. We have seen more of each other in the last two years than we had in the past four. And I can say with confidence that he has learned and matured more in the last two years than he had in the last six.

He had been such a help to his grandparents when he was young and it breaks my heart that now in their sick conditions they won't even be able to see their grandson.

Throughout this whole ordeal he has kept up his sense of humor which had been a large part of his character when he was younger. I believe that society has a much better use for Sam outside of a jail than inside of one. Thank you for taking your valuable time in reading this letter and considering the above.

Sincerely,

Leonid Neys

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leonid Neys', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dear Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

My name is Rima Abramovich and I am a Senior Auditor at Deloitte & Touche, LLP, one of the Big 4 Accounting Firms. I emigrated from Riga, Latvia, in 1988 and was raised and educated in the United States of America. I love this country and everything it has done for me and my family and I can only say one thing and that is "God Bless America". I believe in the American Justice system and as such, am writing this letter to your Honor with great sincerity and hopefulness that your Honor will consider my words and practice leniency when sentencing my dear and close lifetime friend, Semyon Neys.

I have known Semyon Neys all my life, or should I say all of his life as I am one year and eight months older. Our parents have been friends since they were in High School and as a result, Semyon and I grew up together. We were both raised as the only children without siblings so we were the closest thing one could have to a brother/sister. Furthermore, we were spoiled with love, care, and attention from our parents. I remember playing with Semyon in the backyard of his house in Riga, Latvia before Semyon could pronounce my name. After I immigrated to America in 1988 with my family, the Neys family soon joined us in San Francisco in 1989. Semyon and I observed each other grow, side by side, from children to adolescents and finally to adults.

Even though we did not attend the same Elementary and Middle School, I was able to observe Semyon's love for Math and Science and his ability to build challenging figures such as 600 piece airplanes and jets as a hobby at age 10. Semyon and I finally met way in Lowell High School, which is the top Public School in the Bay Area and very demanding and difficult to get into. In addition, Semyon had a knack for sports; one in particular he excelled in was tennis. I myself was taking tennis lessons, and Semyon would take time to practice with me on weekend mornings and help me shine in the sport. I remember thinking to myself how talented and bright Semyon was and how I was envious that he would be able to attend the University of his choice given his outstanding sports skills and intelligence. The time I graduated Lowell High School in 1999, I moved to Santa Barbara for University and began to see less of Semyon; nonetheless, we always kept in touch via the telephone and I would see Semyon at family and friends' events on a regular basis.

After Sam graduated High School, I remember he was working a lot and at the same time going to school at San Francisco State University. I can not remember the exact time Semyon's troubles began but I remember whenever I would hear rumors I brushed them off as I felt I knew Semyon best and everything else was just gossip. One rumor I heard was that Semyon began hanging out with the "wrong" crowd - as we individuals that come from "good families" would describe. Since I was not living in San Francisco at the time I did not observe this crowd under discussion. However, the time arrived when I began to hear news that Semyon was getting into more serious trouble. Everything was very difficult for me to comprehend as it seemed that it was not the Sam I knew that was undergoing these difficulties.

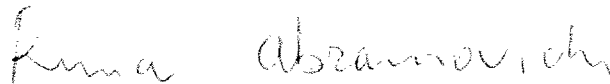
About two years ago, I received word from my mother that Semyon had been arrested on drug-related charges and detained without bail. This news came as a shock to me as I could never imagine Semyon being a danger to society nor a criminal. Twenty months later, Semyon is still incarcerated and missing the most important years of his life. My heart breaks just at the thought of this and I can not even fathom that may have more life to lose being locked up in a filthy place he, in my opinion, does not belong.

Recently, Semyon and I started having what can be called partly a 'pen-pal' relationship. I look forward to Semyon's letters as they are composed with superb writing skills and filled with facts, arguments, and insights that I myself am not aware off. I can conclude that Semyon has completely dedicated his life to knowledge, education, health, and religion. His comprehension of world events, philosophy, and literature is outstanding and I can feel through his writing how he has matured and transformed into a scholar - embracing the opportunity during this time of anguish and a very unfortunate situation. The greatest thing I can tell from Semyon's letters is his profuse REGRET for the wrong decisions he had made as a foolish child and how much his heart hurts for the disappointment and the tribulation he caused his family and friends.

I do not know Semyon as the person who committed actions for which he is being punished for - in a way my words may be biased. I strongly believe that Semyon is not unlawful and for whatever wrong decisions he has made in the past he has paid for greatly both physically and mentally. I have immense faith in the American Justice System and it's belief that everyone deserves a second chance (given the circumstances). I have no doubt your Honor will be fair and justified when ruling on Semyon's fate for the upcoming years but I still plead your Honor that Semyon be treated with leniency and given the lowest term allowed under the law based on the fact that Semyon is not a corrupt nor immoral but an impressive young man who made a mistake and deserves another chance to make it right. We, all of Semyon's friends and family, miss him immensely and can not wait to be reunited with him again. I have no doubt Semyon will be a merited citizen and that he will never be involved in anything illegal again.

Please consider my words and I thank you, your Honor, for the time and consideration you spend in deciding the next years of my dear friend's life.

Best Regards,
Rima Abramovich

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rima Abramovich". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Dear Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

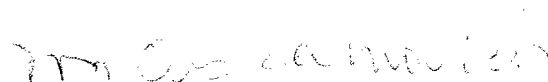
My name is Marina Abramovich and I am a graduating senior at the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit University that bases its mission on morality and fashioning a more humane and just world. I adhere strongly to the values of my University and believe that everyone who makes a mistake in their life should be given a second chance to correct it. This is why I am writing on the behalf of my dear friend, Semyon Neys, and am asking your Honor from the very bottom of my heart to please be lenient when sentencing my dear friend, Semyon Neys. He is a young man who has not only paid dearly for his mistakes with almost 2 years of his young life, but someone who I have no doubt will be an exemplary member of society once his sentence is over.

I have known Semyon Neys a majority of my life. We have been life long friends and I have always admired Semyon for being a kind, generous, and incredibly intelligent young man. Our parents were friends in high school and maintained a strong friendship when we all immigrated to the United States from Riga, Latvia in 1988. Those who know the Neys family know them to be very honest, kind, honorable and extremely decent people. I remember that at Lowell High School, Sam was at the top of his class and was very committed to doing well in school, as well as in sports. He was playing High School tennis at the time and we were all very proud of him and had hopes for him to go on to play tennis professionally. After high school, Sam was studiously working towards a bachelor's degree at San Francisco State University. He was always an admirable young man and he was the last person in my mind who I would ever think would get in to trouble.

Semyon made mistakes in his life for which he is paying for greatly at the present moment. The best years of his life are being wasted away in a prison cell, instead of being with his loved ones. Instead of wasting his time however, he has taken the opportunity to educate himself in disciplines such as philosophy and religion. I know that Semyon has grown and matured into a very honest and law abiding citizen and that he is extremely remorseful for all the wrong he has done, in addition to all the pain and heart ache that his incarceration has caused his family and friends. Semyon has already paid for the mistakes that he has made in his past with physical and mental anguish. He is not a corrupt or unlawful person, but a young man who deserves a second chance to correct his mistakes. I beg your Honor to please be lenient when sentencing Semyon. Please give him the opportunity to return to his loved family and friends and become a great asset to our community.

Thank you

Sincerely,
Marina Abramovich

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marina Abramovich", written in a cursive, flowing style.

To Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker

First of all I would like to thank your Honor to read my letter and take my letter as a consideration for leniency for Sam Neys.

I would like to start telling you about our connection to Neys family in order for you to understand what kind of person is Sam Neys and what value he has in life.

Sam was born in 1983 when we still lived in Soviet Union. His parents were our closest friends. His parents are hard working, intelligent and honest, opened heart people. His parents always spend a lot of time with Sam playing and teaching how to be a nice person, how important to be honest and helpful to people. This is environment in which he grown up. It was a lot of love from his parents. He was taught very important lesson -always to be a good citizen, honest, given and helpful. He always knew that he could not disappoint his parents because they have good expectations from him and he loves them very much.

Sam was very bright and quiet little kid who always shared his toys with others. He was a great student; he had a lot of friends. I remember when Sam was 6 years old, his family immigrated to USA. It was very difficult time for all of them, new country, new culture, new language, new school. It was very impressive for 6 years old boy how he tried to live, never hidden anything, think straight, study hard and help friends. He went to Lowell High School in San Francisco with my daughter. They have been friends since they emigrated from Russia. He always been supportive for her and always protect her from other guys, he always helped some students who could not defense themselves, who was weak and could not stand for themselves, he always believed in Justice, that what I heard from my daughter. I know this for a fact because I met with his friends and they said that they never forget what Sam did for them, they will always be by his side when he needs help.

When Sam with his parents came to America, we always spend valuable time together. My daughter Rima adores Sam; he was not only a great friend for her, but also her little brother. You can see from her letter how she feels about Sam.

He wrote a letter to my daughter how sorry he is for everything what happened, he never did anything intentionally, he never planned to do anything wrong. He said he would never will do anything without knowing for sure if it's Ok. He is very worry about his elderly grandparents health condition, it will be worse if Sam not going to be with them for a long time. His whole family broke a part. He is a great son, great friend, and just opened heart human being.

We all make mistakes and we are paying for it. I believe in Justice and if there is one I strongly believe that Sam should be free. I can say with all my heart that Sam never did anything intentionally; I think he is just naive and trustful person, some people take advantage of him. Everything what happened to Sam now is an awful mistake and tremendous tragedy for all of us. I strongly believe that he paid his lesson in full. I strongly believe that his freedom will bring more profit to everyone in the community than to send him back to jail. I believe that you'll make a right decision and you'll never regret for it.

I beg for your leniency toward to Sam, who I consider as a very special person with a big heart. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mira Abramovich



March 18, 2007

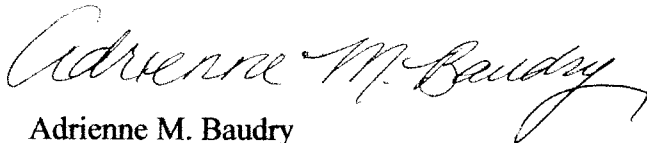
Dear Sir,

This letter is in regards to Semyon Neys, who will be appearing before you the month of April 2007.

I have known Sam (Semyon) for well over three years, and have stayed in close contact with him during his incarceration over the last two, both through regular phone calls and extensive letter writing. I cannot begin to tell you the changes that he has made throughout this time. I have always known Sam to be highly intelligent, determined and as loyal a friend as one could hope for. Throughout the last two years, however, I have seen more and more of what he has to offer. He has set forth goals for himself that he has reached and surpassed. He has taken on a more humble manner, obviously remorseful for things said or done that he felt were immoral, and has learned to stop and look around before acting out. He has taken full responsibility for his wrongdoings, and his apologies are obviously sincere and from the heart, not offered because it is the right thing to do. Even throughout his incarceration, he has found so much to be thankful for, a true inspiration for those of us who are in much better situations. Not once have I heard him place blame, nor try to make his mistakes seem less than they were. There is hope in his voice, despite the situation he is now in, and it seems that he truly wants to keep going in the right direction-healthy, happily, and honestly.

The young man that will be sitting in front of you is so much different than the boy brought in on charges two years ago. He has had time to come into himself, his world no longer clouded by drugs. I can say from personal experience that we are unable to think, unable to grow, and unable to see the mistakes that we are making. It is truly amazing how much we are unable to process while in that fog, and even more amazing how much we realize we have sacrificed once we have cleared our head. There is not a doubt in my mind that Sam has only a desire to continue on a path of sobriety, and to become the man he envisions himself to one day be. I hope that you are able to see this in him, and offer your compassion when it is time for him to sit before you. I appreciate your time and consideration greatly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adrienne M. Baudry". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Adrienne M. Baudry
386 Franklin St. Apt. 0
Napa, CA 94559
(408) 661-6531

Dear Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

My name is Boris M. Beznogyi. I am a longtime friend of Sam, I am writing to you in hopes of clearing his name of at least some of the charges he is being accused of. Sam and I grew up together. We spent the better half of the first several years in the U.S. as a very close friends. Our lives consisted of being together basically every day. We had the same hobbies and interests: played tennis together, discussed books and movies, played the same games. Except for the fact that Sam was somewhat smarter than me. And I'm sure he still is. Sam was never a mean kid. He was never a bully. Best way to describe him would be to state that he had his own little world that he lived in. Very imaginative. Willing to share.

Sam has always been a good guy, at peace with himself. Occasionally, he would baffle me on a particular subject, as if almost to show off his knowledge. Even though it was never meant to be rude or done out of anger. Probably his thoughts were that I was so dull headed, he was trying to teach me a thing or two.

Never will I believe that Sam is a bad person. Drugs make people to do stupid things. I'm sure now that he is clean of drugs he feels the same way. Recovery is a long process, but he can do it. I know he will put his intelligence to good use. Maybe even share his life's story, inspire others to change.

Sam is a very carrying individual. I doubt that he is capable of hurting himself and the people around him.

Sincerely,

Boris Beznogyi

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Boris Beznogyi". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

December 16, 2006

Dear Honorable Judge Vonghn Walker,

My name is Fredda Damast and I am a RN at Alta Bates Medical Center. I have worked with Mery Neys for the past 15 years. If I had the opportunity I would talk to you in person but since that is not an option I have decided to put my feelings into a letter.

Mery is an excellent L&D nurse and a great resource to the entire staff in labor and delivery. She is hard working, conscientious, smart, a team player, professional and above all she is a caring individual with both her co-workers and her patients.

I have known Mery through many difficult times: the death of her mother, the illnesses of many family members, her divorce 3 years ago and now the very difficult plight of her son Semyon.. I have known Mery to handle all these situations with a lot of integrity, honesty and compassion. The arrest and incarceration of Semyon has been the most difficult situation for Mery to handle. Over the past several years she has shared her feelings with me regarding her fears and attempts to help him. She perceived a problem but because he was caught up with a world of drugs that took hold of him she was not able to reach him. He knew that she knew something was wrong, but he avoided her help because he was not ready for help at that time. Mery and he have been very close during his growing up and throughout high school. They were a close knit family with a supportive community around them. Semyon , as many young people are, made some bad decisions and took a path that led him to where he is today. As a mother Mery has suffered as well. She never stopped trying to reach him and support him during these past few years but not until recently has he let her in. Their close mother / son relationship is strong once again.

My main reason for wanting to write this letter is to let you know how I know Mery as a person. She loves her son. He is the most important thing in her life (she has told me many times). She has supported him his entire life and continues to do so as he faces the biggest challenge of his life. Semyon is a lucky young man to have such a loving, supportive and sometimes self-sacrificing mother. Family support creates a strong foundation and Semyon has that in his life. Please put this into consideration when you review Semyon's case.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fredda Damast". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fredda Damast

Dear Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

My name is Yelena Frid, and I am writing to you regarding the sentencing of Semyon Neys. I currently attend UC Davis and working on my PhD in Computer Science. Like Semyon, I immigrated to this country from the former Soviet Union. I attend public school in San Francisco from the third grade till end of high school.

In 1998 I met Semyon in Lowell High School, one of the most prestige's schools in the Bay Area due to its merit based acceptance practices. We quickly became friends in part because of our similar interests in history and immigrant background. Being an excellent tennis player, Sam (as I called him) coached me and my 8-year-old sisters. He was excellent with young children and was extremely patient and committed to well being of his students. Many of the tennis players still recall his ability to teach and regret that he isn't available now.

In school Sam was extremely bright and hardworking up till his eleventh grade. Along with advanced math, he took college level history and economics courses in 10th and 11th. Sam had a thirst for life and knowledge then. He would learn for the sake of learning, which made him stand out from the other students attending this highly competitive school. When he would talk about his future he wanted to pursue his interest in economics, or maybe become a lawyer.

During Sam's senior year in 2001 his parents began to have problems in their marriage. Being a close friend I sensed that this was something that this was difficult for him. In the immigrant community we belonged to divorce was uncommon and extremely frond upon. During that same time Sam met a girl, who we latter found out was addicted to crystal meth. Sam became dependent on her as the situation with his parents got worse. She introduced him to this horrible drug and took him away from us and from his bright future. He was falling into a huge black hole as he became horribly addicted. His personality changed, dropping out of college was previously nothing any one imagined he would do. He pushed his friends away became very skinny and sick looking.

During the past year of his incarceration, the old Sam that I knew was returned. In having many conversations with him during this time, I can see the same person as before. He is obviously extremely regretful of his actions, he understands that if this didn't occur death or something horrible would have. He has reconnected with all of his old friends. I can see the same thirst for knowledge that was previously there. He constantly talks about his studies and his desire for more reading material. Its as if he has just returned from a horrible nightmare. I along with all of his friends and family feel that he should be able to rejoin society and attend college and become a productive member. With his intelligence, hard work and kindness, I feel that he could tackle college and then get a respectable job and start a family. While he has lost some years, it isn't to late for him to really make a positive difference.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,
Yelena Frid

Yelena Frid
Graduate Group of Computer Science
3037 Kemper Hall
Davis, CA 95616
Cell: (415)-307-4142
yafrid@ucdavis.edu

May 6, 2007

Dear Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

I am writing as a long time friend of Semyon Neys, and as someone who has always had and through today sustains a great deal of respect and faith in him. As a recent graduate of the public institution, UC Berkeley, I find myself at a crossroads where I leave my past behind and enter my opportunity-filled future. In another public institution, Semyon is also at a crossroads, he has successfully outgrown his past, but the endless possibilities for his potential are being constrained. I am writing because I feel that a man as intelligent, caring, and now mature, like Semyon, can join me in a bright future if you can look kindly upon his situation today.

I met Semyon when I was 14, around eight years ago, through other friends. Sam, as I know him, was a couple years ahead of me in school and his success at balancing academic aptitude, playing and teaching tennis, all while finding time for his friends, inspires me to this day. This ability to balance is consistent in his personality which combines quick wit and infinite humor with empathetic concern and generosity. Sam was not the only person I met at this time, but meeting him was not typical or insignificant, he remains one of the only people I know who help others for the sake of doing it, without individual gain. This quality became obvious on an occasion when for literally hours, Sam asked me about my friends, school, family and opinions; listening with genuine interest. No one else I've ever met cared to know me so deeply so soon, but his willingness to understand me represents his concern for others which I feel is both indelible and rare in this world. This ability can be transferred to the fact that upon release, Sam would avoid crime as to not disappoint his loved ones, of which there are many. I think that the first time he became involved with illegal action he did not realize how negatively it would affect the people around him; given a chance to see their pain, I am sure he would not act in such a way again.

I remember hanging out with Sam every weekend for a long time. His family lived near the area we would be in, and as a result we would go to his parent's house all the time. Some of us would express concern at this but Sam's parents were always happy to see us and his close relationship with them could have aroused envy in some without the same love. Ironically, Sam's upbringing, close ties to friends and family are perhaps what prevented anyone from worrying about Sam when his troubles began. It seems he, himself, confused his actions with a bizarre sort of achievement. After being arrested, this surreal lens through which Sam viewed drugs shattered into a million projectiles that stung him to his core. No one expected a person with as much potential as him to become involved with the wrong people and landslide into drug addiction. Upon addiction, his actions were no longer his own; this is not to say that they should be dismissed, but the fact of the matter is that Sam is through with drugs and addiction, and therefore, his criminal actions are no longer even feasible.

Reentry is a huge concern, especially for those who have histories of addiction, and as such I can see the court's skepticism in repatriating Sam to normal society. However, not many offenders have a large base of friends (not to mention stable family life) without criminal associations, or drug and behavioral issues. Most of Sam's acquaintances and old friends are extremely successful college graduates and productive members of society. Instead of being released into a culture of crime in which there are few role models and great temptation to be led back to darkness, Sam will be released to those who can help him and inspire him to catch up to their achievements. In speaking with Sam rather frequently over the phone while incarcerated, he does not sound bitter or angry for being "busted," in fact; he is genuinely remorseful for his actions. Sam is an example of correction, within our correctional system. The time he has already served, the regret he knowingly acknowledges, his growing intelligence and maturity through introspection and reading while in prison, the words of his loved ones in seeking his return as well as their ability to assist him both economically and psychologically upon reentry, are all important for him; as proof of the system; and as reasons to view his case sympathetically.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter as well as the others, all of which demonstrate concern and tangible hope for Sam as a person, and for you in your decision.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Golduber", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Veronica Golduber

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June 3, 2007

The Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker

Dear Judge Walker,

I have met Seymon Neys on many occasions at the Federal Detention Center. This young man needed spiritual help and support and the Aleph Institute was more than happy to provide it with books, materials and counseling. It was so refreshing to see a young man that was serious about changing his life and trying to become a better person.

Seymon and I have stayed in touch and I continue to see great improvement in his understanding of the difference between right and wrong. I have found him to be a very compassionate and selfless person. Seymon is genuinely sorry for his acts and has expressed his remorse in a sincere manner. He has also expressed a desire to help others from making the mistakes he made. He is actually teaching others in prison about G-d and morality and the need to follow the law.

Seymon is very young and has his whole life ahead of him. He desperately needs an opportunity to prove to himself, his family and community that he can be a law abiding citizen and a productive member of society. Losing his freedom for a very long time and being forced to spend time with people that do not want to change their ways would be devastating. I believe that Seymon is a good person that made a mistake and should be given a second chance.

It would be a waste to send him to prison for a long time. A short prison sentence along with a long term of probation with two thousand of hours of community service specifically in educating young people in high schools in the Bay area about his crime would be more appropriate. I do not believe that Seymon needs a long prison term to deter him from further criminal activity. He has already lost a great deal and has already been punished. Please find a way to save this young man's future.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Menachem M. Katz

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker
US District Court, Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

May 1, 2007

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys
Case No: CR05-0491

Your Honor,

My name is Elina Khurgin (née Neys). I am writing to you about my nephew Semyon (Sam) Neys.

I've known Sam since his birth and have seen him develop from a curious and friendly child to an intelligent young man. He is a few years older than my sons and for years he was like an "older brother" to them, spending a lot of time with them at frequent family gatherings, teaching them about sports and sharing his energy, creativity and interests.

Sam always amazed me with the love and care he offered to his grandparents who in the past years have become increasingly ill. Not every teenager approaches family needs with the same character and understanding.

The whole family was proud and joyful as we attended the ceremony of Sam becoming a Bar Mitzvah. His dedication to studying Torah was represented in a beautiful ceremony that set an example for other children in our family to learn about our family traditions and Jewish culture. This inspired my sons to go through the education/study process to become Bar Mitzvah.

I know that he excelled in his studies at school and as a result was accepted to the best public High School in San Francisco. He managed to balance academics with athletics where he had many achievements and yet still found time to provide assistance to his grandparents.


As Sam became older we started lose our connection with him, which is not uncommon with young people in their late teens. It was a complete shock for my family to find out that Sam took a wrong path to build his life.

I know Sam as a very warm, intelligent, capable and strong person. As you are making your sentencing decision I am asking you to consider Sam's determination and ability to turn his life around to become the honest and respectful citizen the past has demonstrated he can be. This can allow him to change not only his life, but positively influence others

in similar situations. Knowing him since childhood I strongly believe that Sam deserves another chance.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,


Elina Khurgin

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker
U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Ave.
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

May 2, 2007

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys
Case No: CR05-0491

Honorable Judge Walker:

My name is Alan Khalfin and I write to you today on behalf of Mr. Semyon "Sam" Neys, a dear friend that I have known since childhood, and to whose character I feel well suited to attest. Sam is a bright, motivated, and responsible young man who has, unfortunately, made some huge mistakes in the last few years. Namely, he became addicted to methamphetamine, after which his troubles spiraled beyond his control. Today, Sam sincerely and whole-heartedly understands that his actions were wrong and that they were detrimental to himself, to his family, and to society. He is eternally remorseful for what he has done and blames nobody but himself for his troubles. Since recovering from his addition to methamphetamine, he now views drugs as disgusting, shameful, and extremely dangerous, and wants nothing to do with the drug lifestyle that he once led.

I have known Sam since that late 80s, when his family emigrated from Latvia and I was charged with teaching him English (my family had emigrated 10 years earlier). Given our common background, our shared yearning for exploration and learning, and the fact that neither of us had siblings, we developed a very close friendship. From an early age, I admired Sam's intellect, creativity and dedication. We usually spent our time playing sports, playing chess, or engaging in some kind of engineering project, and from these projects, it became clear that Sam was extremely sharp and a born leader, as he always ended up doing most of the work. As we grew older, Sam always excelled academically and became one San Francisco's best teen tennis players. He dedicated himself to excellence, and would accept nothing less, all the while maintaining a very lighthearted attitude about life. He was an extremely positive, caring, and responsible young man, who you could always count on to help you or to cheer you up.

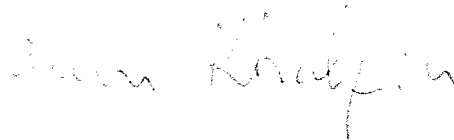
After high school, I moved to Los Angeles to attend UCLA and did not see Sam as frequently. It was during this period that his parents divorced, his grandparents fell ill, and he became very depressed. When I found out that he was using drugs, I was shocked, as we simply did not run with the type of crowd that did drugs. I was upset because I expected more from Sam, and thought that he expected more out of himself. After speaking with him, it became clear to me that he had changed, and that the "old" Sam was vanishing more and more by the day. It was like watching a friend disappear even though, physically, he was still present.

After a few months, Sam was virtually unrecognizable to me, as he became completely controlled by methamphetamine and immersed in the drug lifestyle. While I was baffled by the changes in him, I understood why they transpired. The combination of the depression that he felt as a result of family problems and the departure of many of his life-long friends from San Francisco (to go to college), led him to begin hanging out with a "bad crowd" consisting of older, uneducated people with no future, who lived a life of excess and chased after easy money. The drug lifestyle that this crowd led provided Sam with a convenient and quick escape, and like much of this crowd, he began to view taking and selling drugs as some kind of accomplishment.

I have spoken with Sam several times since his arrest, and I am elated to see that the Sam I once knew has returned. Since quitting drugs, his clarity, judgment, and intellect have reemerged, and I have been reintroduced to the positive, caring and light-hearted friend that I have known my entire life. He now strives everyday to embetter himself academically, spiritually, and mentally, filling his days with religion and literature. Much like in high school, he is now always very eager to discuss various topics in politics, literature, history, and science. Sam is now thankful for his arrest, as he says that it successfully shattered the fantasy in which he lived, enabling him to realize that his actions were wrong, unacceptable, and not consistent with what he wants for himself in life. In retrospect, Sam is eternally sorry for the harm and shame that he has caused his family, his friends, and himself, and everyday he yearns for a chance to redeem himself. He knows that this will be hard, but he is determined to accomplish this goal, and to live a productive life as a contributing and law-abiding citizen.

Your honor, I feel that to continue to keep Sam incarcerated would be detrimental to his rehabilitation. Without the drugs, he is simply not a criminal, but rather a polite, respectful, and responsible young man. He is a self-less person of extremely strong character, who feels extremely remorseful for his destructive actions. I feel that returning Sam to his friends and family is in the best interest of both Sam and society, as he has much to offer and can make a positive influence on many. Therefore, your honor, I respectfully ask that you take my words into consideration when sentencing Sam, and that you find it in your heart to be as lenient, merciful, and compassionate as you feel reasonably possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Khalfin".

Alan D. Khalfin
Santa Clara University School of Law
J.D. Candidate, 2007

Dear Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker

My name is Alex Litvak. I am a recent graduate of the University of California, Davis with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Technology Management. Currently, I am employed at Starmine Corporation, a San Francisco financial software company, as a software engineer. Like most other people, I like to think of myself as a busy man, yet this letter is a priority for me. If I can successfully tell Sam Neys' story and help you see him for the man (and boy) that he is, I believe you can reduce his punishment and allow him to re-enter society for another chance.

I have known Sam since we were both eleven years old – more than half our lives. Together, we attended Laffayette elementary school, Presidio middle school, and Lowell high school. We were classmates for thirteen years and developed a healthy competitive spirit to outperform each other at school and on the field. I have to admit that Sam was more determined and more capable in the classroom for most of our schooling years and I strove to keep up. On top of being in daily contact in the city, we frequently spent time together with Sam's father on camping and skiing excursions. I loved to come along on their trips. I'll never forget the camping trip over Labor Day weekend in Bear Valley. It was a blistering hot afternoon, with the sun at its zenith. I dove off a high cliff into the glistening water and hit the bottom, tearing my foot on the rocks. Sam pulled me out of the water and helped me to safety. On another occasion, we roughed a storm for several days. When we went skiing, I learned from Sam and his dad. They skied hard and I was pushed to the limit just to keep up. Today, thanks to the Neys, I am my friends' and relatives' favorite ski instructor. Our list of memorable activities is endless. Because Sam had no siblings and I didn't get along with my older sister I always thought of Sam as a brother. After having been together through good times and bad, I felt I could always count on him to be there when I needed his aid.

Most people I know, myself included, know Sam as an intelligent and insightful guy with a keen sense of humor. He is capable of laughing at his own expense, but is not one to put others down by ridiculing them or pointing out their weaknesses. Despite being a strong six foot tall athlete, Sam was never much of a fighter. The several times he was physically attacked, he barely fought back and was usually beaten. One fight, many years ago, resulted because he stood up to a bully everyone else was afraid of. The bigger kid demanded Sam pay for some CD the bully had apparently lost. Sam was given an ultimatum; pay or watch his back. Sam could have easily paid the \$20, but was determined to do what he felt was right. He wanted to let everyone know that you don't have to cave in to physical threats if it goes against your principles and he lead by example. Sam took a small beating but never regretted it. He was the kind of guy who would always say "That's irrelevant. It's the principle of the whole thing that matters" All of our shared friends had positive opinions of him and everyone loved to have him around. Sam was a friendly, joyful fella and made any event a little more fun. It was over the past couple of years that he started falling out of touch with his old friends and spending time with a different crowd. Sam's mother was right to panic when she called me asking whether Sam was on heavy drugs. At the time, I just thought she was paranoid.

It is difficult to notice change as it happens when you interact with a person on a daily basis, but looking back, it becomes crystal clear. Throughout the last thirteen years,

Sam slowly transitioned from an impressionable youth to a studious teenager, and from a harmlessly mischievous kid to an out-of-control drug addict. I'm not sure if his parents ever got along well, but I believe that their final breakup had a severe effect on Sam's psyche. Their divorce was the catalyst that sent him spiraling out of control into a state of mind that bred cynicism and self-destruction. I do not think Sam was striving for his parent's attention – they both loved him very much and showed it. He just stopped seeing life's purpose. Why make an effort to make a good life for yourself when it can all crumble in your face? From that point on, Sam began to fall apart. Methamphetamine was the perfect relief for his despair; helping him forget his inner struggles. Unfortunately, it engulfed his entire life and took over his mind. His personality changed to such an extent that many of our friends failed to recognize him for the Sam we knew and loved. Consequently, many of us did not know how to deal with our friend's problem and as a result, Sam felt abandoned. I still feel responsibility for not being able to help him before it was too late. Within two years, he lost forty pounds and looked haggard and sickly, but the effect on his personality was even more profound. The things he used to talk about – history, economics, sports, and girls – no longer mattered. He only cared about his day to day activities. "What's it going to take to find enough drugs for the day" was a regular concern. His life was clearly unsustainable and I told him so myself. Of course, long term concepts like sustaining anything no longer applied. It was a simpler animalistic instinct that took over.

Over a year and a half has gone by since Sam's arrest. It is evident from the phone conversations Sam had with myself and several of our joint friends that he has come a long way. Most importantly, I can see the difference in his personality now that he's off drugs. Rather than worrying about the next hit, Sam is concerned with making the most of his time in jail. Rather than dwelling on the past, he often talks about the future and uses his time wisely to learn as much as he can. He asks about politics, science, business, and general news about the world today. With each conversation, Sam reminds me more and more of the Sam I used to know; a smart, funny, motivated kid. Despite being in jail, I feel that he's on track to rebuild his life and ensure a stable future. With the support of his friends and family, I have no doubt that he will continue in the same direction and become a contributing member of society. I pray that his sentencing will be lenient and he will be back amongst friends soon.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Litvak', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alex Litvak

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker
US District Court, Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys
Case No: CR05-0491

Your Honor:

My name is Lev Neys and I am an uncle of Sam Neys. I would like to describe my nephew as I know him.

When we came to the US we lived in the same apartment building, actually next door to each other. Sam was 8 years old at that time and we saw him daily.

He was very caring, honest child who liked to play with friends. We asked him to baby sit our daughter from time to time and he enjoyed being the "man in charge". He was responsible and dependable, and we fully trusted him.

At age 13 Sam had a Bar Mitzvah. He showed real qualities for preparations for this event. He was persistent in his studies, learned Jewish culture and language with passion. He was very emotional discussing things discovered during his studies. He read Torah in Hebrew and later on took a trip to Israel to learn more about the land of his ancestors.

Sam was also a very good athlete at school. He took tennis lessons, then worked out with private instructor and progressed very quickly. He taught younger kids how to play. He was a member of USTA and participated in local tennis tournaments. He has good character qualities that earned respect from his friends and relatives.

Sam showed a lot support for his grandparents when they became ill. He visited them frequently and helped with their everyday needs.

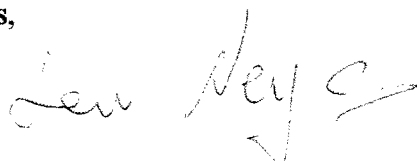
It was a total surprise for me when I learned about Sam's trouble with the law. I know him as a very positive, stable and smart young man. I am sure he has a lot to offer to society, family and be a positive influence to others.

I would appreciate if you consider my words in deciding Sam's future and hope that you will be kind and merciful.

Best Regards,

December 10

Lev Neys

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lev Neys", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dear the Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

05/06/07

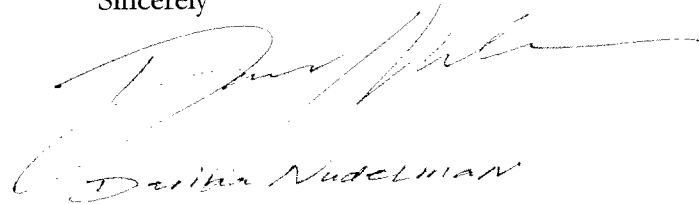
My name is Darina Nudelman and I am writing to you on behalf of Semyon Neys. I have known Sam for about 18 years of my life. In fact I have known him since I immigrated to America in October of 1989. At that time we all lived in the same apartment that was three families each of three, and our working parents rotated shifts of taking care of us. He is like a brother to me and to my cousin. The kind of kid who your parents compared us to in ways of being clean in his space, respectful to his parents & smart in his studies. Since then, we have all grown up into young intelligent adults who deserve to say we have withstood a long short life and we are standing amongst each other. We are from a strong community of Latvian Jews who were allowed to come to America and make something of ourselves. Our parents worked hard every day of their life to such a point they often seemed torn apart, but yet there was always food and love in our families. Yet our lives are still young and full of new fazes and opportunities to grow and become. I would like to see my brother working and enjoying starting a family and life like those of our great ancestors. Of all the people we come across in life he was the last one I would ever think deserved to be away all of his good years or even wished pain to another human.

Semyon and I went to middle school together were he always protected me, being I was a girl and a 6th grader when he was in 8th grade. I always felt that he was more mature than most of the kids anyway because he never tried to tease anyone or start fights. For high School Sam went to Lowell which all of us locals know is the best public school in the city. I continued on to Washington High which was just a big public school mess but graduated toward the top as we all did. Through these school years we always stayed in touch even if it was just birthdays. I treasure the time we spent together because Sam always made sure he left me with some kind words, gifts or sense of a better tomorrow whether or not I let him know that I was going through some hardships. Thank god for those people in our lives that can brighten our day out of the kindness of their heart because sometimes it seems most everyone else is taking that energy away from us. In some ways I feel he does that for me now too, when I talk to him he always educates on worldly news and ways of coping with life. He has a strong sense of optimism and will always come out on top. However I cannot

look at the person I am talking to and that hurts a lot. I see him as a positive role model contradicting to the fact that he is now locked away.

Judge, I hope that you can see that this is a very special young man who deserves a second chance to prove himself. I know this is all wishful thinking and there are consequences to our mistakes, big or small and what goes around comes around. I truly from the bottom of my heart believe that Sam understands how quickly things can go wrong and after these last few years understands how time can work against all of us. He is not forgotten however and I myself wait the day he will be released. Please believe along with that, his community of peers and extended friends and family all stand behind him strongly with open hearts. Please consider reviewing Semyon Neys' case and reconsidering his sentence and whether you can see the good person and role model we know him to be. Thank you for finding the time to review this letter. With the utmost respect,

Sincerely



Derik Nudelman
08/06/07

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker
US District Court, Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

March 14, 2007

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys
Case No: CR05-0491

Honorable Judge Walker:

My name is Gabriella Pasman and I am writing to you on behalf of Semyon "Sam" Neys. I have known Sam for all of my 25 years. During our childhood, we spent many weekends together on family outings, playing tennis, and often taking vacations together. I have always considered Sam to be my little brother, being an only child myself and have always tried to be the protective big sister. As teenagers, we attended birthday parties together and spent our lunch periods socializing together as school. Our parents have been friends since their adolescence, and I have always been very close with him and his family; therefore, I feel that I can attest to his character.

For as long as I have known Sam, he has been a fun-loving, yet responsible person. As a teenager, he taught tennis to young children, he took care of his family, and was always a present and caring friend. We both attended, Lowell High School, one of the top academic high schools in the nation. Sam, who was enrolled in honors classes, was always able to help me with various academic questions I had. His positive attitude and light-heartedness was contagious, and he has always been a pleasure to be around.

Sam and I are both products of the similar upbringings: both of our families immigrated to the United States as religious refugees from the former Soviet Union, both of us are the products of hard working families who struggled to survive in a new country, learning a new language and adapting to a new culture. We are both products of a "broken home," as both our sets of parents are divorced. When my parents divorced, I fell into a deep depression and developed an eating disorder. Sam was very concerned about me and tried everything in his power to lift my mood and make me feel better. When his parents were in the process of divorcing, I attempted to be there for him the

same way he was there for me. He, too, became very depressed and began to stray from his lifelong friends, instead spending time with a “bad crowd” of those who were much older than he and were involved in negative activities. He had always been a very positive person, but the drugs took him over—physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Last year, I visited Sam, while he was in custody. I was overjoyed to see that the person I had always known and loved had resurfaced. He was so excited to see me. He was unable to stop talking about all of the books he has been reading, all of the recipes he was creating with his kosher prison meals, and how remorseful he was for all of the people he had hurt. He tried to comfort me through the glass barrier as I cried. Clean and sober, Sam was again lighthearted, filled with joy, positive, and caring—qualities that he has lost under the influence of drugs.

I was very surprised and saddened to hear of Sam’s legal troubles. I had always known him to be responsible and concerned with what his family and friends thought of him. Having visited him in prison, I believe that he feels great remorse for his deeds. I also believe, although it is not an excuse, when he was under the influence of drugs he was not himself and disconnected from reality. I believe that he has already suffered—being unable to erase the pain and sorrow he has caused his parents and family. Knowing Sam, this burden he will carry with him for his entire life and is greater than any punishment given to him. Having said that, I ask you to be lenient and compassionate when sentencing Sam. He is more useful to society sharing his experience with today’s youth, than socializing with hardened criminals—many of whom might never be reformed. Please give him a chance to redeem himself in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of his friends and family.

Sincerely,
Gabriella Pasman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Pasman', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker March 14, 2007

US District Court, Northern District of California

450 Golden Gate Avenue
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys

Case No: CR05-0491

Honorable Judge Walker:

Dear Sir,

My name is Rudolf Pasman and I am writing to you on behalf of Sam Neys. I have known Sam Neys from his birth and am a close friend of his family for more than 30 years from my childhood.

I would like to take this opportunity to attest to the character of Sam Neys, who is waiting for your decision and to offer you some information regarding his background and behavioral pattern.

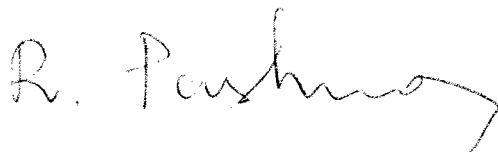
Sam grew up in a hard working, truly supportive and loving family that struggled to survive in a new country learning a new language and adapting to a new culture. He graduated from Lowell High School, one of the top academic high schools in the nation. Sam became well educated, intelligent, kind hearted, caring and positive person with remarkable sense of humor. He spent a lot of time with his grandparents who became very ill helping them with house cleaning, food preparation and shopping. He was a respectful and thoughtful child to his parents, as well as his family and friends.

I was very astonished and distressed to hear of Sam's legal issues. I had always known him to be responsible and concerned with what his family and friends thought of him.

Knowing Sam Neys and his good character, I believe that he has already been punished—being in jail for more than a year and unable to remove the pain and sorrow he has caused his parents and family. He has learned and changed since his arrest in this case and he will never be involved in any illegal acts. I feel that it would be best served to allow him to once again be a contributing member to society sharing his experience and lessons learned with today's youth.

Best Regards,

Rudolf Pasman.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Pasman', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dear Honorable Judge Vanghn R Walker

My name is Diane Polonsky , I'm mother of Boris Beznogyi who met Sam in his first year at school at age 7 and carried out their friendship throughout the years. Sam was always sweet, intelligent boy, polite, with very nice disposition. He had a good influence on my son, and I approved very much of their friendship. He was surrounded by his loving parents and grandparents. I never heard Sam ever had problems with anybody: always friendly, positive, kind, and respectful.

It was a shock to learn that Sam got in such an unfortunate situation. With all my heart I believe that it happened because like a lot of young men Sam got in a wrong crowd. Unfortunately this happens nowadays and I think Sam deserves to get another chance to show his potential, all his good treats.

He is very young and already is learning life hard way. My strong feelings are Sam will in no time show us the best part of him.

With All Respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DP' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Diane Polonsky

April 29, 2007

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker
US District Court, Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys
Case No: CR05-0491

Honorable Judge Walker:

My name is Michael Royz, and I am writing to you on behalf of Semyon (Sam) Neys. I have known Sam since he was born, because I am a good friend of his parents for almost 30 years. When we immigrated to USA, we lived with Neys family at the same apartment complex. Sam and our daughter Simona (who is graduating San Jose State University this year) were very close friends (they are 1 year apart – and were 6 and 7 years old), always playing together. Sam always was a very bright, emotional and honest child. It was a pleasure to be around him. He came from a truly supportive and loving family. Sam is the only child of a hard working immigrant family, and has always tackled challenges and opportunities with a strong character, good will and a remarkable sense of humor.

Sam is also a very good athlete – an excellent tennis player. He has good character qualities that earned respect from his friends and relatives.

Sam is very devoted to his grandparents, especially when his grandmother becomes very ill. He visited them frequently and helped with their everyday needs.

It was a total shock and surprise for all my family when we learned about Sam's trouble with the law. We know him as a very positive, stable and smart young man. I am sure he has a lot to offer to society, family and be a positive influence to others.

I know how hard it is for Sam's parents, his elderly and very sick grandparents to survive all time when Sam is in custody, so, your Honor, let me use this opportunity to ask you to consider my words in deciding Sam's future and hope that you will be kind, lenient and merciful, because I truly believe it will be much more beneficiary to have Sam in Community and his family. Please give him another chance to be useful to society sharing his experience with today's youth, than socializing with hardened criminals.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Royz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Royz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

May 1, 2007

Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker

Thank you Your Honor, for taking your valuable time and reading my letter supporting Sam Neys.

I have known the Neys Family for more than 30 years. My relationship with the family began in Latvia in the 1970s when his mother and I were attending Riga's First Medical School to become Certified Nurse Midwives. I have known Sam since his birth. He grew up in loving and caring atmosphere provided by parents, grandparents and friends. His parents spent countless time teaching him to be responsible for himself and other people, how to be a giving and caring person for everyone around him. He initially echoed the core family values by helping community, teaching children how to play tennis, working hard and taking care of his elderly grandparents.

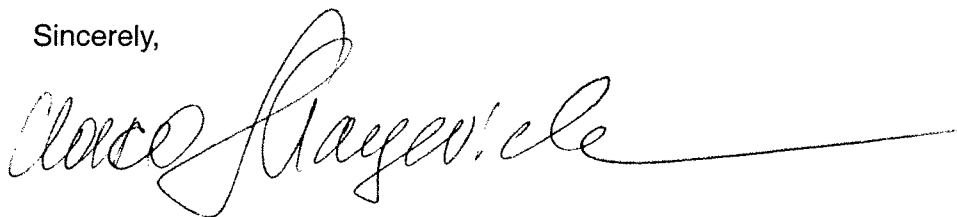
When I learned that Sam was arrested on drug related charges it extremely difficult for me to fathom. He made a huge mistake in his life and he is paying for that right now by being incarcerated and missing the most important years of his life. There has been a dramatic change in him due to realization of the gravity of his poor judgment. His mother occasionally shares his letters to her from the jail. It unbelievably evident that he deeply regrets his past actions and will do everything and anything to be able to ease the pain and great disappointment that he has caused to his family, his friends and himself and prove that he can be a better person.

Knowing Sam for so many years I strongly believe that he is not a hardened criminal. Due to his youth, his upbringing and the support he is receiving from his family and friends I feel that he deserves a second chance to start anew.

I have great faith in the American Justice system and have no doubt that Your Honor will be fair and take to consideration the circumstances when deciding on Sam's future, I plead with Your Honor to treat Sam with leniency based on the fact that he is young person who made a mistake, deeply regrets it and deserves another chance to make it right.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clara Shayevich", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Clara Shayevich

To The Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

I am writing to you as a dear friend of Sam Neys, to tell you what he has meant to me during the eleven years I have known him, and hopefully to give you a better idea of his character as his case moves into the sentencing phase.

Sam and I met while we were in the seventh grade, at a time when I was the neighborhood delinquent and he was the kid that everyone expected, with good reason, to become an incredible success. He had every charm and talent one can hope for in a kid. He was ambitious, clever, athletic and had the social grace to make a veritable fan club out of the matchmaking moms in our neighborhood. To have suggested to any of them that Sam would ever find himself in his present situation would have been taken as a terrible joke. But life can have a nasty sense of humor sometimes, and just before our senior year of high school, drugs began to draw him into a lifestyle that contradicted everything we had known of him before.

I was not especially close to him during his years as an addict. In the person I had so long taken for a brother, I suddenly found a stranger and a sham. On occasion I would come by his house, but it was always hard. He seemed awkward, nervous around me, as if hiding a deep shame in himself, or doing a bad, twitchy impersonation of the Sam I had known. He did reckless things, lied to me about the drugs, and became completely unreliable. His grades dropped, and when we graduated in 2001, I was the one, as if by some glitch, who went on to study at Stanford, while Sam continued sinking.

Since then, I have gone on to start my career as a reporter at an English-language newspaper in Moscow. It is a job I take great pride and satisfaction in, but it is painful to consider that Sam, the kid who has the constitution to become a truly exceptional man, is sitting in a federal prison. It stops me cold to think of it at times.

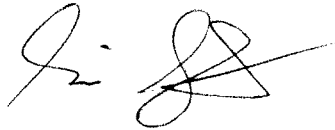
In our letters to each other we often talk about this, about the mixed-up irony of how our lives have gone. Indeed I think our correspondence, which we have kept up throughout the two years he has served, would convince you better than anything could of how much Sam deserves another chance. Of course I couldn't send you his letters without breaking his confidence, but I can tell you that they glow with all the drive and intellect Sam possessed in the first years our youth together. He writes to me about his regrets and his new priorities in frank and lucid terms. He tells me about the books he reads, the current events that fascinate him, the ingenious ways he has come up with for bettering himself while in prison.

Already he is one of the best informed and most educated peers I have, and to be convinced of this, I ask that you please spend just a couple of minutes talking to him. Ask him about the Middle East, about democracy, music or economics, and I promise he will amaze you. There is no more guile in him, no more recklessness, but only the wish to realize the incredible potential that his friends and family have always seen in him. Please allow him to pursue this wish sooner rather than later. No one contests that he deserves to be punished for his stupid mistakes, but nor would anyone deny, at least among the

people who know him as I do, that he is too brilliant a person to be imprisoned during the most critical years of his life.

Thank you so much for considering what I and the rest of Sam's loved ones have written to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Shuster', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Simon Shuster

The Moscow Times
3 Polkovaya Ulitsa, Bldg.1
127018 Moscow, Russia
tel: (7-495) 234-3223
fax: (7-495) 232-6529
email: s.shuster@imedia.ru

Dear The Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker,

My name is Svetlana Stinerman. I am writing to you regarding sentencing of Semyon Neys.

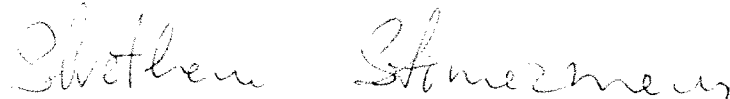
I am a long friend of Neys family. I have known Neys family for more then 25 years and known Semyon since the day he was born. He was raised in the front of my eyes and I could follow his steps from the first day he was born thru now. Our kids played together and we went thru all difficult times in our lives as very closed people. My son and Semyon was friends, even Semyon was older then my son. They were growing up together. When we first came to this country in 1989, we were roommates and share an apartment with Neys family.

During that time I only could say a good thinks about Semyon. He was always a good to his parents: loving and caring son and grandson. Sam was always very polite and respectful to older people. His parents did not have any problems with him as he was in school. San always was a good student. Honest, hard working and intelligent young men. He was involved in all school activities, played sports (Tennis).

I was surprised to find out that he got involved in any illegal activities and was arrested for it. Knowing this young man as long as I do, I can really say that he made bad judgment. I am sure that he already realized that and I am asking you that Sam would be treated with leniency and given the lowest term allowed under the low based on mitigating factors known to you. In my honest opinion that he has learned his lesson and deserve a second chance. I believe that he is changed since his arrest in this case, will never repeat these mistakes again and never will get involved in any illegal activities again.

Sincerely,

Svetlana Stinerman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Svetlana Stinerman", written in dark ink.

December 17, 2006

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker
US District Court, Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: USA v. Semyon Neys
Case No: CR05-0491

Honorable Judge Walker:

My name is Leon Vigdorchik, and I am writing to you on behalf of Semyon "Sam" Neys. I have known Sam since he was a child, and am a close friend of his family, and therefore feel that I am in a strong position to attest to his character. For as long as I have known Sam, he has always been a positive influence to his peers, as well as a dedicated, hard-working and not to mention bright and spirited young man. I spent several months living with Sam and his family during his teenage years. During this time, I was able to see what a truly supportive and loving family he comes from. Being an only child of a hard working immigrant family may put pressure on a child, but Sam has always tackled his challenges with a strong will and a remarkable sense of humor, for which he is well known among his friends.

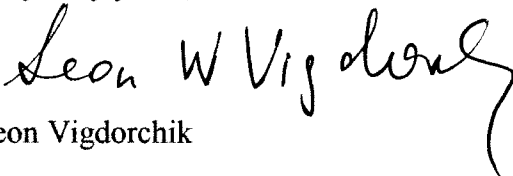
I remember when Sam was just a teenager; he helped counsel one of his long-time friends through addiction, family and personal problems. I was impressed with the maturity and compassion with which he selflessly devoted himself to his friend. He did the same for me several years ago, when I sustained a back injury. Sam was there to help with whatever I needed. He was under no obligation whatsoever to help me, but insisted on being there for me, as if I were a part of his family. Sam's respect for the people around him and the strong values his parents have instilled in him were apparent in all of his actions.

Not too long ago, Sam's family was struck with misfortune. His parents chose to end their 20+ year marriage, and in the midst of their divorce, both of his paternal grandparents became very ill. Sam's grandfather developed a blood disease, while his grandmother was diagnosed with diabetes and Alzheimer's disease. Considering his closeness with his family, this was a very difficult time for Sam; however, he showed an immense amount of responsibility for someone so young, taking on a supportive role for both of his parents during this difficult time, and caring for his grandparents.

I was shocked when I learned of Sam's troubles, as in the fifteen years that I have known him; I have never known him to be anything but a positive, respectful, law abiding and productive member of society. I feel that Sam is a selfless, compassionate, and strong person. His potential for success is limitless and his spirit and drive are extremely powerful. I strongly believe that Sam has much to offer to society and has the potential to be a positive influence and example to many people in a similar situation. Given his background, I believe that it would be detrimental to his physical, mental and spiritual health to put him in a federal correction facility with hardened criminals, and in light of the circumstances leading up to these incidents, I feel that it would be best served to allow him to once again be a contributing member of society. I therefore respectfully ask that you take my words into consideration when sentencing this young man, and ask that you be as lenient, merciful, and compassionate as possible.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leon W Vigdorich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Leon" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "W" and "Vigdorich". The signature ends with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Leon Vigdorich

CONGREGATION CHEVRA THILIM

FOUNDED IN 1892

751 – 25th Avenue • San Francisco, CA 94121 • (415) 752-2866
Fax: (415) 752-2019 Email: info@chevrathilim.org www.sfshul.org

Rabbi Shlomo A. Zarchi
Dr. Philippa Newfield, President

May 17, 2007

To the Honorable Judge Vaughn R. Walker:

I am the rabbi of Congregation Chevra Thilim, the oldest Orthodox synagogue in San Francisco. I am writing to you to take into consideration Semyon Neys new found faith and to show leniency.

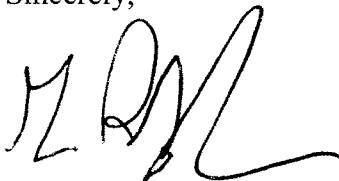
Semyon's mother, Mari, has come to my synagogue several times during the last two years. Many of her friends are also members of my synagogue. They are good people. Semyon wrote a letter to me expressing his desire to change. Prison has given him the time to reflect and find meaning in his life. He realizes the mistakes he has made and seems to truly want to change.

I am very familiar with the organization in Florida that he has been studying with and sending him holyday materials, etc. I have seen people in Semyon's situation before and with the right guidance have become proper citizens again. He is a good, decent person who fears the Almighty and wants very much to be a good Jew.

He is finding his path and wishes to make better decisions. From speaking with his mother, I do not consider him to be a danger to anyone. If anyone is deserving of a leniency, it is Semyon. He is young and seems legitimately sorry for his past transgressions.

Please feel free to call me if you need any more information at 415.752.2866

Sincerely,



Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi